

R E M A R K S

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required a restriction between three groups. The first group includes claims 1-26 drawn to a fiber and nonwoven. The second group includes claims 27-32 drawn to a method of making a fiber. The third group includes claims 33 and 34, drawn to a method of forming a nonwoven.

Applicants herewith elect Group I, including at least claims 1-26 with traverse.

First, it is noted that the Examiner has not included claims 35 and 36 in any Group. Applicants submit that these claims should be included in Group I since they relate to a fiber and are also dependent from claim 1.

Further, Applicants submit that claims 27-29, 31 and 32, which are presently included in Group II, should also belong in Group I. Applicants have amended claim 27 to include the features of claim 30, which has been deleted. In both claims 1 and 27, the spin finish consists essentially of an emulsion of polysiloxanes with at least 25% of the active content being polysiloxanes. As is known to one skilled in the art, the fiber crystallinity can be controlled by a number of parameters, among these the nucleation of polymers and draw ratio. As indicated in claim 35, fiber crystallinity of at least 50% can be

achieved by a draw ratio of at least 1 : 1.5 and/or the polyolefin polymer being a nucleated polymer. The fiber-to-fiber friction of the finished fiber is determined in part by the active content of polysiloxanes in the aqueous emulsion. Other parameters influencing the final fiber-to-fiber friction include the concentration of the active content. Thus, with a suitable choice of the remaining parameters, a spin finish consisting essentially of an aqueous emulsion of polysiloxanes, with at least 25% of the active content being polysiloxanes will result in a fiber-to-fiber friction of no more than 600 g. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the method of claim 27 would not make a materially different product than that claimed in claim 1. For these reasons, Groups I and II should be grouped together. It is for these reasons that Applicants traverse the restriction.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination. Accordingly, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No.

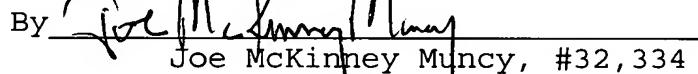
27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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